

**The Times-Dispatch**

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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 1911.

**GO TO THE CITY HALL TO-NIGHT.**

The first crucial hour in the progress of the plan for a new form of city government comes to-night, when the Council Committee on Ordinance, Charter and Reform will take action on the proposed plan, rejecting or recommending it. An adverse report would seriously impair the chances of the plan's passage in the Council, and every influence should be brought to bear upon the committee to the end that it may report the plan unanimously and favorably. As suggested by President H. Lee Peters, of the Common Council, and Business Manager W. T. Dabney, of the Chamber of Commerce, last night, let every citizen who wishes this plan to go through attend the session of the committee to-night at the City Hall at 8 o'clock, and attest by his presence his desire that Richmond shall have a better, more economical, more business-like, more progressive government. The citizen who will sacrifice an hour of his time to go to the City Hall to-night will render both himself and the city great service, and will materially affect the result of this all-important proposition for a greater Richmond through a better form of government.

**UNANIMOUS FOR BETTER GOVERNMENT.**

"Cut my ward out, cut me out, if it is for the best interest of the city of Richmond," declared President H. Lee Peters, of the Common Council, last night at the Chamber of Commerce smoker in the interest of the plan for a better form of city government. Such an utterance is indicative of the aroused civic spirit which was the keynote of the gathering last night of 500 men, representing every part and sentiment of Richmond. If the new plan goes through, President Peters will be legislated out of office, but the high ground that he took last night is significant of the fine spirit that is being shown by many members of the City Council. "There is too much waste, there is too little co-operation; Richmond is losing thousands of dollars through its present form of government, and it ought to have a better form," President Peters affirmed with unmistakable sincerity and emphasis. It was a get-together-for-Richmond meeting last night. Unanimously did those present signify their approval of the new plan by a show of hands, and on the rising vote taken on the resolution appealing to the Council to adopt the plan there was practical unanimity. At every opportunity, the citizens showed by their applause that they are behind this movement and that they are determined to "make it go."

"Five hundred men last night sat through more than two hours and a half of straight talk, and they never showed any desire to have it come to an end. They heard Charles V. Meredith's lucid explanation of the plan, his vigorous criticism of our present form of government and his exposition of the good points in the new form proposed; they heard City Attorney Pollard indict the people of Richmond as citizens, who had been "placid-looking on" while the few conducted their government; they heard Ashton Starke's vehement appeal for better citizenship; they were stirred by the logic and power of Rabbi Calisch's eloquent appeal for a better city government; they listened with keen interest to Councilman Pollock's endorsement of the plan and plea for its support, and when Judge George L. Christian told them that they ought to use every means in their power to get a larger registration for voting they felt with him the necessity of such a step.

Surely the members of the Council who were present last night were impressed with what they saw and heard. They saw the writing on the wall and surely they will heed it. They gathered many evidences of the fact that the sentiment of the people of Richmond is being aroused as it has not been aroused in years; that the business men of the city, the professional men, the workers, the citizens who count, and the Council are getting closer together and feeling more interest in each other and more zeal for Richmond. Nor was this all that the Councilmen learned. They must have felt much pleasure at the very handsome things that were said about the personnel and good work of the present Council by the representative men of the city; that they were made aware of the fact that it is the form and not the man behind it which is being criticized. There was nothing but public interest to bring the citizen out to that meeting last night. The weather was inclement; there were no famous orators to speak; there were no refreshments of any sort; no music; no songs, no "inducements." But 500 of the people of Richmond who count went, and the next time there is a like meeting twice that number will be there.

Committee on Ordinance, Charter and Reform were present last night, as far as could be ascertained. To-night this committee passes upon the proposed plan, and it is believed that the pressure by individuals and by the public meetings will convince the committee that it is its duty, as a registrar of public will and as an instrument of progress, to report favorably the plan. Public sentiment is just being aroused to the necessity for both the features of the proposed plan, and the campaign for a better form will go on until something better is secured. Unfavorable action now will hurt not only the city, but those who oppose it. The issue is clear; the people want this plan, and the Committee on Ordinance, Charter and Reform should register the people's will.

**ITALY AND THE DARDANELLES.**

It matters not whether Russia's protest against the alleged intention of Italy to violate the neutrality of the Dardanelles, "if necessary," and her insistence that the provisions of the treaties of 1841, 1863 and 1871 in respect thereto be maintained, are or are not inspired by selfishness. It matters not that the reasons she gives for protesting, such as that violation would seriously interfere with commerce, may be groundless and a subterfuge. In taking the position she has taken she should have the countenance and the sympathy of the other powers, to the end of compelling the confinement of the Turkish Empire to the Tripoli zone, as far as practicable. Nor have we much doubt that if it comes to the test such sympathy and support will be forthcoming. From an Italian blockade of the strait it would be but a step to Italian invasion of the Sea of Marmara and the Bosphorus and the bombardment of Constantinople, "if necessary." Clearly, such recourse by Italy might prove the opportunity for all the Balkan malcontents and Turkophobists, both in and out of Turkey, thus involving the danger of a general Balkan upheaval. Clearly again, ere the end came, all Europe might be drawn into the struggle.

Hence every consideration points to the duty and the wisdom of the powers' sustaining Russia, and forcing Italy, as they can force her, without striking a blow, to restrict herself to the originally announced purpose of her hostilities against the Ottomans, which was the occupation, the control and the overlordship of Tripoli—the wresting of the last of the Barbary States from Mohammedan dominion. This is not in the interest of either Turkey or Russia, but in the interest of humanity and the world's peace.

And if Italy is wise in her generation, when brought to book she will make no demur, but yield gracefully. For, judging by the experience of France in conquering and pacifying Algeria and its hinterland, Italy may have her hands full, and may need all the sympathy and moral support her sister Christian nations can give her before she shall have accomplished the task of subjugation and pacification of Tripoli and the contiguous reaches beyond, to which she has set herself. France thought she had Algeria crushed, when Abdel-Kadir and his hosts came down upon her like an avenging smoothen from the desert, and it took her a generation and cost her thousands of lives and millions of treasure to prevent her armies from being crushed out of the country. Italy would do well to hew to the line of first ambition.

**DEFECTIVE RAILS.**

The official figures given out by Harry Belknap, the chief inspector for the Interstate Commerce Commission, cast a good deal of light on the frequency of railroad accidents due to defective rails. In 1902 there were seventy-two derailments on American railroads, caused by the breaking of rails. In 1911, so far, there have been 249 derailments, and, in the last decade, from 1902, there have been 2,659 derailments, killing 106 persons and injuring 4,112 others.

These figures leave no doubt that rails break, but there is still an argument as to why they break. The rail manufacturers allege that the great increase in defective rails is really due to the increased weight and speed of trains. No scientific proof has been given yet to establish this contention, but it is remarked by the Indianapolis News that coincidentally with the increase of broken rails came the decrease of independent manufacturers.

In 1902 rails were made by a number of competing steel manufacturers. Since that time the rail business has gone into the hands of one monopoly, supported and protected by Republican tariffs, and rails have broken with a frequency and a regularity that was never before known.

Before the steel trust got control of the whole rail business there were rails of all sorts, just as there are rails of all sorts, and Mr. Harrison is said to have paid \$1 more a ton for the Tennessee Coal and Iron Company's rails before that company was gobbled up in 1907, because he was buying in quality as well as quantity. When competition went out of business quality went with it, and the American people have been permitted to study why rails are bad without being given the natural means of making them good, namely, by buying rails from Germany and England, where the manufacturers want to make a record. It is the old story—monopoly means selfishness and carelessness. Rails have not kept up with trains because rail makers have not felt obliged to make the effort. But railmakers are not the only culprits. Seven great clothing concerns have

just been closed and 1,200 people thrown out of work in Cincinnati because the manufacturers allege that hines clothmaking has gone into the hands of a monopoly, the quality of the cloth is so poor, and the shrinking so great, that the losses more than eat up the profits of the wholesale tailors.

Perhaps, after all, the Sherman law is not as bad as its enemies contend.

**A REMINISCENCE.**

A special in yesterday's Times-Dispatch, stating that "a stuffed deer placed by a man in the woods near South Amherst, Mass., led to a waste of ammunition on the part of sportsmen, eight hunters mistaking it for the real thing," no doubt recalled to many old-time Richmonders the iron frog joke that prince of practical jokers, Charlie Hunt, perpetrated on his friend, the gastronomic artist, and another noted local character, Spiro Zetelle, and which the latter was wont to recount in his amusing Graeco-English dialect after he had forgiven Hunt. This he had occasion to do about once every three months.

Following a long tramp, and after Zetelle had wasted, without effect, several pounds of powder and shot on a huge iron frog Hunt had placed on a rock in the centre of a pond, he (Zetelle) swam out to the rock to capture his game by hand, in his eagerness neglecting to divest himself of his clothes. Then he swam back again. His eagerness had cooled, as had his body, for the water was quite chilly. But his temper had taken a reverse turn, and, as goes the story, as narrated by Hunt, the renowned caterer's sympathies, thermal vocabulary set even the water in the pond to boiling.

But that may have been imagination, or a verbal joke of the practical joker.

**THE KEY OF SERVICE.**

Announcement of the annual elections to the Phi Beta Kappa Society of Virginia has been just made by Dr. Walter A. Montgomery, professor of Latin in William and Mary College and secretary of the society. Perhaps many people who read the account of the result of the election did not know whether Phi Beta Kappa is a debating society or a college secret society, but, to those who understand the value of such an academic honor, Phi Beta Kappa is the literary brotherhood which stands rigidly and unswervingly for high scholarship, sound learning and real service to mankind.

In times like these, when charges are rife that colleges and universities barter and sell their L. D.'s for endowments and buildings or to curry favor with the men of wealth and power, it is refreshing altogether to remember that the Phi Beta Kappa Society has always been uncontaminated, and recognized naught but clear and pure scholarship or noble service. Almost every college is forced to bestow its Ph. D. degree upon small men of narrow scholarship, despite the ancient and honorable belief that the Ph. D. degree should be awarded for nothing but unusually high scholarship, but the Phi Beta Kappas have stuck to their colors and still differentiate the mere grind from the scholar and the men of letters from the man of dollars.

Look over the list of names of those elected this year by the Virginia society. There you find a learned and distinguished scholar and teacher of modern languages; the author of a scholarly contribution to Virginia history; the writer of a novel which has won the golden medal of every critic, the favor of the reading public and international note; a Southern fiction writer who has added much to Southern literature; a historical scholar whose writings on early Virginia constitute the last word; a famous world-traveler; an efficient and constructive school superintendent in Virginia; the efficient president of a large in North Carolina. These are men who have done something, men who have added to the world's wisdom or to the world's good, men of real service. The Virginia Phi Beta Kappa key is a symbol of worth and service. Those who wear it should value it far more than the solemn parchment "caus honoris" conferred by the average college in the United States.

**THE SONS OF MINISTERS.**

Woodrow Wilson, a minister's son, has been asked by the Rev. Christian F. Reiser, D. D., "Why does the world so generally charge that minister's sons go wrong?" Dr. Wilson answers, "Because it does not know the facts." Dr. Reiser thinks that it is because the newspapers "never publish the usual, but always the unusual"; for that reason, he says, a minister's son going to the bad is heralded, and a few like him establish the rule, when they ought to form only the exception. Dr. Reiser finds in "Who's Who" one name in twelve to be that of a minister's son; they are eighteen times as many as the sons of other professional men.

According to the New York World, among men who have made their mark in English history an investigator found 1270 sons of ministers, 510 sons of lawyers, and 350 sons of doctors. Of the ninety-nine foreign members of the French Academy of Science one in every eight is the son of a minister, and of the forty-eight foreign members of the English Academy of Science, one in every six was "reared in the atmosphere of a clerical home." De Candolle, the French scientist, says that "the sons of clerical families have actually surpassed during 200 years in their contributions to the roll of eminent scientists the similar contribution of any other class of families."

"Why do not more ministers' sons go into the pulpit?" Dr. C. Solz of the

World, whose father was a minister, replies, "Because their build and breeding is apt to prove a wider ambition." Bradford Merrill adds: "Because the pursuit of wealth is the one pursuit in which most men of to-day engage most of the time. The ministry is a very poorly paid profession."

The World has to say that:

"The families of clergymen have a tough time of it. Not only are ministers' stipends small, but their congregations are critical. Perhaps the preachers themselves sometimes inwardly revolt at being held to high and impossible standards. Their sons distinguish themselves in other fields. Only a few go wrong. The influence of their homes are strong; it takes energy to break away from them, and when the breach is made it is made violently. That is why such a case is apt to excite attention."

There can be but small wonder that preachers' sons look with disfavor on the pulpit. They have had brought home to them the fact that the ministry is the most underpaid profession on earth, and that the pastor's path is the path of thorns.

The Chicago Tribune assigns the following questions as the cause of the early death of newspaper reporters:

"Do you take your notes down in shorthand?"

"It must be nice to get free tickets to all the theatres."

"Are all reporters college graduates?"

"How do you know when there is a fire or a murder?"

"Do you also make the pictures for your articles?"

"I suppose you know all the police and firemen?"

"Please don't put my picture in the paper."

To which might be added:

"Give me as big a write-up as possible, won't you? I used to be a newspaper man myself."

"Can't you get this account of the monthly meeting of our sewing society on the first page?"

"Be sure to put in that I am president of the Regal Manufacturing Company, which gets out the Regal catnip, the finest catnip catnip in the world, which sells at 15 cents a bottle at Dill & Brown's."

And the list could be expanded almost endlessly.

In a very interesting monograph on his experiences as a wearer of the gray, H. H. Baker, of New Orleans, thus writes of the people of our sister city:

"The heroism of the good people of Petersburg should be an example for future generations to emulate, and their patriotism and self-sacrifice will live in history along with the deeds of her matchless soldiers."

True, every word of it.

**Voice of the People**

Against the Parcels Post.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir,—I have noted at intervals that editorially favor the proposed parcels post bill and have given your reason for favoring the passage of this bill.

On the other hand, I have noticed little or nothing in any of your columns showing objection to this measure, which I am sure would be of benefit to the country.

I am inclosing you an article showing the reasons against this measure, which I am sure would be of interest to the farming and business people, whose rights and interests will be largely affected.

Richmond. T. PEYTON GILES.

The parcels post: "To be or not to be, that's the question."

1. The proposed parcels post is in reality an express and freight business, and is not a proper function of government. It should be left to the people to work out under proper and rigid governmental regulations. It is practically a monopoly, being in operation by many of the monarchical governments in Europe, with or without the consent of the people, is no more than a business enterprise, and we should adopt this law more readily than their conscript, less majestic, or suspension of the habeas corpus laws.

2. It is practically a monopoly, as it is decided by a very small number of business firms (mail order houses), and is a decided injury to practically all other classes of business men, including each farm, which is nothing but a business firm making its product from the soil.

3. The above reasons should be conclusive and should decide this matter, but if we must thrash it out from the strictly practical standpoint, or that regard to the rights of the matter, we can begin by asking if heavy packages can take either a transportation service of one mile or of 100 miles at the same price for the service, which cannot a grocer sell a customer one pound of sugar for 5 cents or allow the customer the privilege of taking 7,000 pounds of sugar for the same 5 cents? One of these propositions is a reasonable one, the other, and both are simply impossibilities.

4. The maximum weight for the proposed parcels post is eleven pounds. At the present unusually high express rate, eleven pounds is carried a distance of 1,100 miles and over, at the proposed parcels post price for either one mile or 7,000 miles, and by freight the price is even less. The Interstate Commerce Commission has full power and is not engaged in readjusting the express rates to a proper basis for the service rendered.

5. Unless the express and fast freight service is abolished by our government, they will, as a matter of course, under the proposed conditions, take all of the hauls up to the 1,100 mile limit, and

**Abe Martin**



Plucky Kerr was able to walk downtown this morning for the first time since he smoked a cigar he bought on a train. Speaking of Indiana natives, a country editor was robbed of \$3,000 worth of jewelry the other day.



**La Marquise de Fontenoy**

As there has been a considerable amount of discussion and controversy on both sides of the Atlantic as to why King George should have appointed a commission to

fulfill in England certain duties of sovereignty during his absence in India, instead of appointing a regent, it may be as well to explain that the creation of a regency would have necessitated legislative approval, which might have led to all sorts of troublesome delay and annoying discussion in Parliament. Moreover, it would have entailed a surrender by King George of his sovereign power throughout the period for which the regency was created.

Now the King has never had any intention of relinquishing his sovereignty while absent in India. He is feeling that dependency as a full-fledged Emperor of India and as a sovereign of all the remainder of the British Empire, including the United Kingdom and Ireland.

No parliamentary sanction was, however, necessary to enable him to appoint, in conjunction with his Privy Council, a commission to give certain signatures in his name during his absence, and to affix his sign manual to documents, where it was indispensable, after having previously received the sanction by wire, Queen Victoria, during the early portion of her reign, also made a point of nominating a commission of this kind when she went abroad, following the examples of her Hanoverian predecessors on the throne.

The commissioners appointed by King George are his cousin, Prince Arthur, who has not yet received any prerogative entitling him to sit in the House of Commons, and Lord Morley of Blackburn, who is the lord high chancellor, and Lord Morley of Blackburn, who is the lord high chancellor, and Lord Morley of Blackburn, who is the lord high chancellor.

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Plus X's creation of two new archbishops in England, namely, the Archbishop of Liverpool, and the Archbishop of Birmingham, serves to call attention to the fact that there is an English law still in existence which reserves to the exclusive use of the Established Church of England all high titles of ecclesiastical dignity, and especially territorial titles of this kind.

Indeed, ever since the reign of Henry VIII. a penalty has been attached to the refusal of any person to accept the so-called Catholic emancipation act of Parliament of 1829 has existed for the punishment of those who, not being members of the Established Church, assume the title of archbishop, bishop, or dean, in England or Ireland, the statute declaring such assumption, without the approval of the sovereign, to be an act of hostility and rebellion against the supremacy of the crown.

When, however, the Protestant Church of Ireland was disestablished by Parliament in 1870, the agitation ceased—at any rate, on the part of responsible statesmen. For since the members of the Irish Protestant hierarchy could no longer claim to be representatives of the sovereign, they were obviously just as liable to penalties as any other persons for continuing to call themselves archbishops and bishops as the Roman Catholic hierarchy of England.

The recent creation of the bishopric in England has called forth no protest or criticism in England, or, so far as I know, in the rest of the world, and is infinitely more tolerant in religious matters to-day than they were sixty years ago; and then, too, the present English government is committed politically to the disestablishment of the Anglican Church in Wales, and the revival of the controversy about ecclesiastical titles of the Roman Catholic hierarchy might render the future position of the Welsh bishops a matter of much unpleasantness, and of angry discussion.

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**Eleven Hundred and Nine East Main Street**

is the temporary home of one of Richmond's Best Banks.